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No. 15. The assignment of house-sites in villages is free of assignment and subject to the conditions specified in Appendix XXI at page 82 of Board's Standing Orders, Volume II.

(c) The Government have no details on this point.

(ii) (a) The Government cannot say as no detailed investigation of the matter has been yet made. The Commissioner of Labour and the Board of Revenue are considering the question of organizing a system of regular inspection of lands assigned to depressed classes in order to ensure that the special condition prohibiting alienation is observed and that the assignees really own the land assigned.

(b) The hon. Member is referred to paragraph 50 and statement VI in the Administration Report printed in G.O. No. 2434 L., dated 26th October 1927, referred to above which contains all the information that has been compiled.

(c) (i) (a) The hon. Member is referred to B.P. No. 1187, dated 5th March 1925, which was laid on the Council table on 20th August 1925.

(c) (i) (b) The Government presume that assigned lands are omitted from the lists published under the Board's instructions referred to in the answer to the previous clause; but will enquire.

(c) (ii) (a) & (b) Walls and fences are not recognized survey marks under the Madras Survey and Boundaries Act, VIII of 1923. Assigned lands are mapped by survey numbers and subdivisions and demarcated with stones separately from unassigned lands.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—"With reference to clause (i) (c), will Government be pleased to call for a report on the subject?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"If the hon. Member will refer to the answer to clause (ii) (a), it would be clear that 'the Commissioner of Labour and the Board of Revenue are considering the question of organizing a system of regular inspection of lands assigned to depressed classes in order to ensure that the special condition prohibiting alienation is observed and that the assignees really own the land assigned.' In view of that, the Government do not propose to make an independent enquiry."

Land Revenue

Land Revenue Bill based on joint Parliamentary Committee's recommendations.

* 111 Q.—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a Land Revenue Bill to carry out the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of 1919 during the life of this Council;

(b) if not, why not; and

(c) when this Government addressed the Government of India last on this Bill, and what was their reply?

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A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement made by the hon. the Revenue Member about the Land Revenue Settlement Bill in his speech on the general discussion of the Budget for 1928–29 on 2nd March 1928.

(*c*) A letter from the Government of India on the subject was answered on 7th October 1927. No further communication has been received from that Government.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know whether subsequent to 2nd March 1928 to which reference is made in answer to clauses (*a*) and (*b*), this Government addressed the Government of India with regard to permission to introduce a Bill in consonance with the wishes of this House on this matter ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The question is answered, Sir, that no further communication has been received from that Government."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am asking with reference to the statement made by the hon. the Revenue Member on 2nd March 1928, that ' it is not open to this Government to bring forward a Bill with a provision making the rates of assessment subject to the vote of this House. And the reason why Government have not brought forward a Bill is that the House has more than once clearly expressed the view that they are not willing to accept a Bill which does not contain such a provision.' I am asking whether subsequent to that statement this Government have addressed the Government of India whose permission is presumably what is required before the Government can introduce a Bill of that kind."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know why the Government have not introduced a Bill ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The Government have already explained why, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Is it not open to this Government to ask the Government of India to reconsider the matter in view of the opinion of this House ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not think so, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I am asking whether it is not open to this Government to address the Government of India ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" In the opinion of the Government, it is not open."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if it is intended by this Government to take no further action on this matter ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" In the circumstances, no."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" What are the circumstances under which this Government will approach the Government of India ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I cannot prophesy, Sir."